Miss Corson

The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of
The National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXX — January 14, 1952 — NUMBER 14

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PAUL A. ZAHL

FLAMINGO EGGS SPECKED ANDROS ISLAND IN 1946; TODAY SEARCHERS FIND NONE

Bulletin No. 1, January 14, 1952

Varied Geographic Regions Make up Argentina

ARGENTINA, South America's second-largest country in area and population, extends more than 2,300 miles from tropical jungles in the north to bleak, gale-ridden islands near Cape Horn. Its million square miles include tropical rain forests, cataracts that rival Niagara, treeless plains, dusty deserts, rock-walled fjords, and snow-capped mountains.

Argentine people are mostly of Spanish and Italian descent. Only 20,000 to 30,000 Indians remain among Argentina's 16,000,000 inhabitants. Buenos Aires, the capital, is the southern hemisphere's largest city.

Chaco Dwellings Vary from Huts to Houses

The country's varied terrain and climate makes for definite regional divisions. Beginning at the north, the Gran Chaco stretches into Paraguay. One of the most important trees growing in its forests is the quebracho whose bark is used in medicines, and for tanning and dyeing.

Cotton is a major crop. The Chaco's public lands are being sold in small holdings to private individuals. Some of the more enterprising settlers live in comfortable houses, but most farm homes are simple huts made of branches and poles, plastered with mud and thatched with grass.

In the republic's northeast corner, between Brazil and Paraguay, is located Argentina's top tourist attraction, the Iguazú Falls. It is less in volume than Niagara, but drops farther—210 feet, although it has to "make it in two jumps," while Niagara's 167-foot fall is uninterrupted.

The jungle setting of Iguazú is a national park, and plans are being made for a zoo, museum, and modern hotel. Wild cats, pumas, otters, alligators, giant anteaters, and dozens of varieties of monkeys, birds, and butterflies fill the surrounding forest. Because of its remote location, fewer travelers visit Iguazú Falls in a year than go to Yellowstone in a day during the height of the tourist season.

Uspallata Pass Is Gateway to Chile

The Andes, longest continuous mountain range in the world, forms a natural boundary between Argentina and Chile. Several peaks rise more than 22,000 feet. Aconcagua, highest mountain in the western hemisphere, towers 23,081 feet.

The Transandean Railway crosses the border through Uspallata Pass. A side trip may be made to the Christ of the Andes statue.

Central Argentina, region of the *pampas*, leads in population and production. This is the main grazing and agricultural area. It is the land of the famous *estancias*, enormous livestock ranches covering thousands of acres. Extending from the Chaco south to the Rio Negro, it is a seemingly level plain. In reality, it ascends gradually from the Atlantic westward to a height of 1,250 feet. The climate is healthful, with much sunshine alternating with adequate rainfall. January is the warmest month, July the cold season.

The region south of the Rio Negro, extending to the Strait of Magellan,

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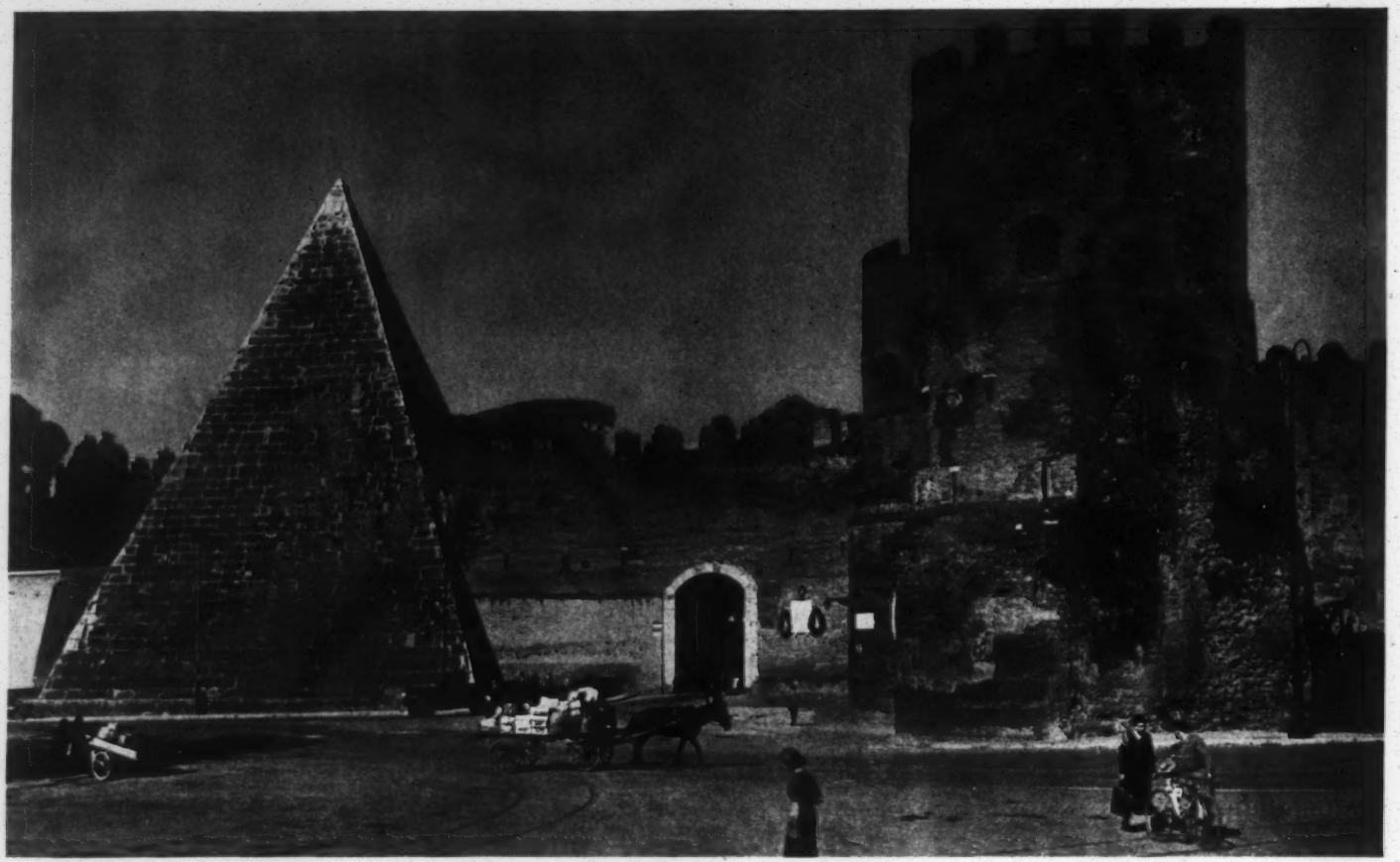

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 3)

BERNARD F. ROGERS, JR.

EMPEROR AURELIAN ONCE EXTENDED ROME'S WALLS TO INCLUDE THIS PYRAMID TOMB, INSPIRED BY ANCIENT EGYPT

In ancient times, thick, heavy walls like these protected Rome and other large Italian cities from the ravages of men and beasts. A Roman official 2,000 years ago decreed that this pyramid be erected as his tomb. St. Paul saw this landmark on his way to martyrdom. Today its shadow falls across the near-by tombs of Shelley and Keats.

Scenic Tasmania Puts Water Power to Work

INDUSTRIAL development is transforming Tasmania into one of the most important corners of the Commonwealth of Australia. Tasmania is the small heart-shaped island state which Australians affectionately call "the Speck."

The island has more potential water power than all the rest of Australia put together. With huge new hydroelectric plants tapping the rush of water from lakes half a mile high, there is already one electrical horse for every citizen of Tasmania (a quarter-million in all). These turn the wheels of industries which produce everything from apple butter to zinc ingots.

Mountains Older than the Alps

Machine-made changes in Tasmania's sharply hewed landscape do not hide the strange natural wonders of this land of ancient rock. Recently, fossilized chunks of trees believed to be from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 years old were unearthed by roadbuilding crews.

The mountains of Tasmania, geologists say, are older than the Alps, Andes, or Himalayas. Extremely old, too, are the forms of life, animal and vegetable, which survive on this island isolated by the southern seas for millions of years.

Kangaroos (illustration, next page), wombats, "teddy-bear" koalas, and the webfooted, beaver-tailed, duckbilled platypus are creatures common to both Australia and Tasmania, but are found nowhere else on earth. The Tasmanian "devil" is a vicious black-furred marsupial with formidable teeth which preys on sheep, although no larger itself than a big domestic cat. The Tasmanian "tiger," actually a marsupial wolf, is one of the rarest of living animals.

There are no longer any pure-blooded Tasmanian natives in existence. The last survivor died in 1876.

Tasmania was first seen by Europeans in 1642, when the gales of the "roaring forties" drove two Dutch ships under Captain Abel Tasman into the lee of a wild, inhospitable coast. Tasman named the place Van Dieman's Land, in honor of the governor general of the Netherlands East Indies who had sponsored the exploring expedition.

Fresh Start under a New Name

The island lay forgotten for 135 years. Then, in 1777, Captain James Cook, the famous English navigator, visited it. In 1803 Great Britain established a penal colony at Port Arthur on the southeast coast, and for the next 50 years sent there the castoffs of the British kingdom.

With the last shipment of prisoners, the colony changed its name to Tasmania and made a fresh start. As early as 1820 fine Merino sheep had been imported. Clearings were hewed in the great eucalyptus forests. The rich red soil yielded bountiful crops.

Coal was discovered early in the island's history. In 1851 a gold strike was made, and a score of years later a tremendous lode of tin ore

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is known as Patagonia. It is sheep-raising country. Sheep graze as far south as Tierra del Fuego, where a freezing plant *(frigorifico)* annually slaughters a quarter of a million sheep.

About 41 per cent of Argentina's land is in pasture, 32 per cent in forest, and about 10 per cent cultivated. Chief grain crops are wheat, oats, corn, and linseed. Flour-milling is second industrially only to meat refrigerating. Alfalfa for feeding Argentina's cattle takes up much acreage. Other crops include potatoes, sugar cane, grapes, tobacco, rice, citrus fruits, and yerba maté, from which a popular tea is made.

Buenos Aires has the largest meat-refrigerating plant in the world. Its daily capacity is 5,000 cattle and 10,000 sheep. Beef is exported frozen, chilled, and in tins. Tons of mutton and pork also help keep Argentina's export list longer than the import register.

Although people were living on the site of the capital more than 400 years ago, Buenos Aires is virtually a new city. Few buildings remain from early Spanish days. Streets follow a rectangular pattern, wide and tree-shaded, with many parks and plazas. Impressive buildings, most of them designed in the past half century, give the effect of a modern European capital. The population of Buenos Aires has jumped from 76,000 to about 3,500,000 in the last 100 years.

NOTE: Argentina is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of South America. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "Buenos Aires: Queen of the River of Silver" and "Buenos Aires—Metropolis of the Pampas" (24 color photographs), in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1939; and "Life on the Argentine Pampa" and "Pioneer Gaucho Days (8 color photographs), October, 1933. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930–1945; and $2.00, 1912–1929. Earlier issues, when available, varied prices.)*

ARTHUR BAUER

FROM LA PLATA, ARGENTINA, A NORTH AMERICAN FIRM SHIPS SOUTH AMERICAN BEEF ABROAD

At this *frigorifico* 30 miles from Buenos Aires, cattle from the pampas are processed into juicy steaks and such less-appetizing but even more useful by-products as bone meal, gelatin, and soap.

Bulletin No. 3, January 14, 1952

Wolves at Rome's Door Recall Old Legend

THE wolf is at Rome's door—not a symbol of hard times but real-life beasts. Gaunt wolves, killing sheep and alarming communities, lately have been reported within 15 miles of the ancient walls of the Italian capital (illustration, inside cover). Driven from the hills by drought-caused famine, the animals have been seen around such settled areas as the summer home of the Pope at Castel Gandolfo, at near-by Rocca di Papa, and somewhat farther away at Cervara.

The depredations recall the old legend of the founding of Rome. The twins, Romulus and Remus, were mothered by a she-wolf in their infancy. Romulus later founded Rome. Today's wolves also are an indication, surprising to many, that wild animals still haunt many heavily populated regions. The ancient land of Italy is an example.

Posses Track down the Beasts

Though gradually diminishing, wolves have found a retreat in Italy's northern and central mountain districts, from which they venture forth in times of stress. Many farmers guard their flocks with fierce white sheep dogs, themselves of mixed wolf blood.

On occasions, when the marauders have been especially active, local hunters have formed posses to track them down in neighboring wooded hills. Just last year a tragic incident was reported in which a soldier on leave was said to have been killed by a lone attacking wolf in the Abruzzi. The wolf, wounded by a desperate bayonet thrust by his victim, also lost his life.

The wolf (illustration, next page) is a member of the canine family which includes dogs, coyotes, and foxes. It has a wide range over much of Europe, Asia, and North America.

At one time these beasts were common from the central Mexican plateau to the polar regions, from Newfoundland on the Atlantic to Vancouver Island on the Pacific. They grew fat in the Great Plains area before the passing of the big buffalo herds.

Some gray, or timber, wolves are still found in the United States in the Rockies and the northwest, as well as in Alaska, northern Canada, and on both sides of the United States-Mexican border.

Figure in World Folklore

The European wolf, on the other hand, has vanished from the British Isles. Some students say England harbored no more wolves after the early 16th century, and that the last remnants in Scotland and Ireland were killed around the middle of the 18th century.

From time immemorial the wolf has been a central figure in man's fears and superstitions. Ancient Greek and Roman tales of people turned into werewolves were accepted by medieval witch hunters, and crept into folklore in such forms as "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs."

Bounties have been offered on wolves for more than 2,500 years.

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was discovered. Silver, lead, copper, zinc, nickel, osmiridium, and iron today add to Tasmania's treasure chest.

The state, 26,215 square miles in area counting outlying islands, is the smallest in the commonwealth—less than one per cent of Australia as a whole. But it has the largest woolen mill of its type in the southern hemisphere; it gave birth to civil aviation in Australia; and it pioneered in consolidating rural education with its famed "area schools."

Hobart, capital and largest city of Tasmania, with a population of 80,000, has one of the finest harbors in the world. To it, and to ports and airfields at the northern end of the island, 130 miles across Bass Strait from Victoria, come thousands of vacationing Australians each year, drawn by the temperate climate and scenic grandeurs.

NOTE: Tasmania is shown on the Society's map of Australia, on which it appears as a large-scale inset.

For additional information, see "The Making of an Anzac," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1942 (out of print; refer to your library); and "Sailing the Seven Seas in the Interest of Science," December, 1922.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 13, 1950, "Progressive Tasmania Out to Lure Tourists."

WILLIAM REID

YOUNG JOEY PEEKS OUT OF HIS POUCH WHILE MOTHER PAUSES FOR REFRESHMENT

The kangaroos of Tasmania are somewhat smaller than their brothers and sisters living in Australia. At birth the baby kangaroo is about the size of a bee and its body is semitransparent. "Joey," as Australians and Tasmanians affectionately call all baby kangaroos, remains in his mother's pouch for four or five months after he is born.

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Bulletin No. 4, January 14, 1952

Fragile Flamingo Threatened with Extinction

THE pink flamingos of the Caribbean, whose mass flights twenty years ago sometimes colored the sky over the northwestern Bahama Islands, today have a slim hold on life.

This beautiful bird's struggle for survival is not yet as precarious as that of such rare varieties as the ivory-billed woodpecker, the whooping crane, or the California condor. However, the flamingo is extremely shy, fragile, and nervous. If man cannot find a way to protect it from terror and sudden death, it may disappear.

Abandoned Large Bahama Rookeries

Visitors to the islands east and south of Florida have admired the flamingo for decades. Today the stilt-legged wader has vanished from many of the small islets and shallow lagoons that were once its chief nesting haunts. Man's constant encroachments since the beginning of World War II must be blamed.

By September, 1946, the flamingo (from the Latin word, *flama*, meaning flame) had completely abandoned its once-large rookeries on Andros, Abaco, and Grand Bahama islands.

In recent summers, naturalists, disturbed by the bird's disappearance, have surveyed a wide region of the Caribbean. They have discovered a colony of 7,500 American flamingos on Great Inagua Island, 350 miles southeast of Andros. This may be the largest remaining concentration of the pink-tinged birds. Twice as far southwest on the marshy coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, is another colony.

This thorough survey estimates today's Caribbean flamingos at little more than half the 25,000 birds that inhabited colonies on Andros Island alone before World War II.

Frightened by Military Maneuvers

Dr. Paul A. Zahl, a New York ornithologist, has made first-hand studies of the flamingo during several recent seasons. In an article in the May, 1951, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*, he describes the last stand of the flamingo on Andros Island. Like the long-extinct dodo and the Florida spoonbill, it cannot adapt itself to changing conditions. Modern inventions are too much for it.

During the war years, bombers and pursuit planes practiced maneuvers in the skies above Andros, largest and one of the wildest of the Bahamas. Firing from a large military base on near-by New Providence Island added its thunder to the general din.

Nearly all the frightened birds deserted the big rookeries. Late in 1945, military-plane traffic dwindled. The birds began coming back. In June, 1946, nearly 3,000 adult flamingos formed a good-sized nesting colony on their old stamping ground.

But a new danger was at hand—oil prospectors invaded Andros. Surveyors, drilling crews, and camps of laborers were stationed at numerous island points. Among them were Andros natives who cared nothing

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Farmers and ranchers, hunters and conservationists have combined to outwit and outflank wolves' designs on their sheep, horses, and cattle, on domesticated reindeer or prized wild game.

Through the world's literature runs a broad vein of wolf adventures, of kidnapped children, miraculous escapes and sudden death. Among the numerous everyday expressions that show how strong a place this animal still holds on man's imagination are "big bad wolf," "wolf in sheep's clothing," and the whistled "wolf call."

NOTE: Rome may be located on the Society's maps of Europe and the Near East, and Western Europe.

See also, "Ancient Rome Brought to Life," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1946; "Other Working Dogs and the Wild Species," September, 1944; "Italy's Monuments Tell of Rome's Magnificence," March, 1940; "Augustus—Emperor and Architect," October, 1938; and "Imperial Rome Reborn," March, 1937;

And, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 29, 1951, see "Rome's Colosseum Stages a 'Premiere'."

E. W. NELSON

THE BIG BAD WOLF OF THE NURSERY RHYMES STILL TERRIFIES CHILDREN AND GROWNUPS

The wolf, closely related to "man's best friend," the dog, has been despised, persecuted, and hunted down through the ages. This animal holds such tremendous power in its jaws that no single dog of equal size is a match for it. A single snap could sever the spine of a calf.

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Earth Yielded Secrets to Explorers in 1951

FROM sunbaked ruins in far-off deserts, from a giant crater in Canada's subarctic, from the deepest spot in the oceans, and from the edge of the visible universe, explorers wrested new knowledge in 1951.

At Ghar-i-Kamarband in northeastern Iran, in a cave overlooking the Caspian Sea, the bones of three Stone Age people were unearthed where, perhaps 75,000 years ago, a roof fell on them. They may be the earliest human beings yet discovered. The same excavations, but at higher levels, rolled back the recorded beginning of agriculture by some 1,300 years, to about 6,050 B.C.

Queen of Sheba's Capital Found

Diggings in Iraq uncovered a 7,000-year-old townsite, the oldest settled village ever found. Its age was established by radioactive carbon measurement, a technique which is revolutionizing archeology. Subsequent discoveries not far from this town, which is known as Jarmo, indicated another settlement which may be even older.

Crossing Saudi Arabia's Rub Al Khali, the "Empty Quarter," explorers of the American Foundation for the Study of Man reached what is believed to have been the Queen of Sheba's ancient capital. At Marib in Yemen, one of the world's least-known countries, they found a ruined city of alabaster temples and palaces protruding through desert sand.

A geological team sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto brought back proof that giant Chubb Crater on the Ungava Peninsula of northern Quebec was gouged out by a meteor smashing into the earth (illustration, next page). The scar thus ranks as the largest of its kind known on the face of the globe.

Across the continent, atop California's Palomar Mountain, astronomers have photographed and recorded one-third of the visible heavens out to a distance of 350,000,000 light years. A thousand new clusters of nebulae have been discovered in a sky survey being carried on by the National Geographic Society and the California Institute of Technology.

Gulf Stream Is Several Streams

A Nobel Prize winner headed a four-man team wintering high up on Switzerland's 13,600-foot Jungfraujoch to study cosmic rays. Evidence that both sun and stars are the source of this energy from outer space came from analysis of instrument data recorded at 100,000-foot altitude with the aid of "balloon trains" by the National Geographic Society and the Bartol Research Foundation of Philadelphia's Franklin Institute at Fort Churchill on the shores of Hudson Bay.

The Gulf Stream, it was learned, is not a single massive current but several flowing side by side. Scientists determined that, geologically, the North American continent extends far out under the Atlantic. Undersea mountains 11,000 feet high were discovered in the Arctic Ocean between the Orkneys and Spitsbergen and in the Pacific northeast of Hawaii.

A team of French speleologists (cave explorers) broke all world records

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about saving the birds. They knew that flamingo meat and eggs (illustration, cover) are rare delicacies.

Their repeated raids for eggs frightened the flock. By September, when many of the flamingo chicks were well grown, final disaster came. The birds were shot down by the dozen. Some escaped and disappeared in a pink cloud over the horizon.

Flamingos can cope after a fashion with hawks, crabs, lizards, sharks, and floods. When it comes to man, however, with his banging guns and roaring planes, the impulse to flight and self-survival overcomes that of protecting nest and eggs. Flamingo cities were war casualties no less than Coventry, Berlin, and Hiroshima.

NOTE: Haunts of the flamingo may be located on the Society's map of Countries of the Caribbean.

For additional information, see "Flamingos' Last Stand on Andros Island," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1951; "Flame-Feathered Flamingos of Florida," January, 1941; and "Large Wading Birds," October, 1932.

FEATHERSTONHAUGH, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

LIKE A ROSE-PINK CLOUD, FLAMINGOS GATHER ROUND FOR A SEAFOOD FEAST

In a shallow lagoon on Andros Island, flamingos step daintily about in a bed of *Cerithium*. This small spiral mollusk is the chief item on their menu for breakfast, luncheon, tea, and dinner. Flamingos eat at any hour of the day and night, and apparently care for nothing but Cerithium.

for vertical descents in the Pyrenees Mountains near the Spanish border. At the bottom of a cave they found a huge hall which they described as large enough to hold two cathedrals the size of Notre Dame in Paris.

Climbing in the other direction, a British team pushed high into the Himalayas to scout the western approaches to 29,002-foot Mount Everest. Five University of Alaska students scaled 13,200-foot Mount Hess in the Alaska Range for the first time. On North America's highest peak, 20,257-foot Mt. McKinley, a party pioneered the western face.

Egypt's discovery of the Avenue of the Sphinxes, near Luxor on the east bank of the Nile, gave archeologists renewed hope of finding Cleopatra's tomb. The largest ancient palace yet uncovered in the Holy Land, dating from the time of Christ, was discovered at Jericho.

Fossil hunters dug up near Manchester, Ohio, the remains of giant "sea scorpions," some of them six feet long, locked in volcanic ash in the bed of the ancient salt sea which once covered Ohio. Smithsonian Institution paleontologists reaped a rich fossil harvest in the Glass Mountains of west Texas.

British and Scandinavian polar scientists worked from bases on the continent of Antarctica. France, Argentina, and Chile, determined to back up their claims to pie-shaped slices of Antarctica, sent out expeditions to establish scientific stations south of the polar circle.

French scientists maintaining a year-round weather station on the Greenland icecap also reported evidence that Greenland, long regarded as the world's largest island, may be three islands, divided by deep sounds.

RICHARD H. STEWART

A METEOR TRAVELING THOUSANDS OF MILES PER HOUR LEFT THIS SCAR IN NORTH QUEBEC

The National Geographic Society-Royal Ontario Museum Expedition last August examined this huge circular lake set in a deep crater. The party's findings established the crater as the largest meteoritic scar yet found on the face of the earth. The shore line of the lake measures 5.4 miles. Greatest depth of water sounded was 825 feet. The rim rises as much as 500 feet above water level.